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OLC 75-2008/A

29 October 1975

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: CIA Relations or Activities with the Senate

1. The following responds to the Senate Select Committee's request for a full report on the nature and extent of all CIA relations or activities in the Senate.
2. The focal point for the Agency's liaison with the Congress is the Office of Legislative Counsel. The range of activities include contacts with Members of Congress as well as personal and committee staffs. Regular contact is maintained with the four committees which exercise primary oversight of Agency activities. They are the Senate and House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees. There are also frequent contact with other Congressional Committees, principally the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, House International Affairs Committee, and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. Aside from oversight functions and appropriation matters, principal activities involve the provision of substantive intelligence information and responses to constituent inquiries.
3. Whenever the Director or other senior Agency officials provide sensitive classified briefings, the Agency usually conducts a prior counter-audio sweep of the hearing room as well as a counter-audio search during the testimony. The Agency also provides security escort for the handling of classified transcripts. These defensive measures are done with the full knowledge of the committee chairman.
4. CIA does not clear Members of Congress. Members are provided information on the basis of their membership on various committees and/or their position as a Member of Congress. It should be noted, however, that some Members of Congress held Agency security clearances (in fact some were CIA employees) before they were elected to Congress.
5. Security clearances are a prerequisite to the receipt of classified information by personal and committee staffs.

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Such clearances, are obtained at the initiative of the committee or Members of Congress whenever staff members are exposed to classified information provided by the Agency in the form of testimony, briefings or documents.

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7. Since 1963, CIA employees have participated in the Congressional Fellowship Program. A total of twelve employees have taken part in this program.

8. There are a number of former CIA employees who are employed on the staffs of congressional committees or individual congressmen. The Agency does not maintain a list of such ex-employees.

9. Over the years, the Agency, at the request of committee Members of Congress or staff members of Congress, have provided various types of physical security support. These included repair of safes, changing safe combinations, conduct of counter-audio surveys, telephone inspection, as well as training employees of Congress in locks, safes, vault doors, alarms and incinerators.

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